

South



Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1916.



Adelaide:

R. E. E. ROGERS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NORTH TERRACE.

1916.

REPORT.

Aboriginals Department,

Adelaide, September 22nd, 1916.

Sir—I have the honor to submit my report on the working of the Aboriginals Department for the financial year ended June 30th, 1916.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

This station was taken over by the Department on the 1st September, 1915, being voluntarily given over by the Yorke's Peninsula Aboriginal Mission, Incorporated, with all assets and liabilities, viz. :—Assets, £13,189 12s. 3d.; liabilities, £1,827 2s. 10d.

The operations for the 10 months to June 30th, 1916, show a profit of £3,007 16s. 2d., which is eminently satisfactory, considering that there are 27 full-bloods and 162 half-castes who are more or less dependent on the station.

The balance-sheet, which has been audited by the Commissioner of Audit, is appended.

The natives are paid regular wages, out of which they are compelled to support themselves and families; only those who are incapable of earning a living owing to old age or infirmity are provided with food, clothing, and shelter. Medicines are given free to all natives.

A general store is kept on the station, where the natives can purchase all their requirements, including meat and milk, at cost prices.

The natives under this system are doing good work, and numbers of them seek outside employment.

For the coming harvest we have 3,200 acres under crop, which looks capable of producing four or five bags of grain to the acre.

Unfortunately we are short of sheep by at least 3,000 head. If we had 5,000 sheep on the station, as was the case some years ago, the income would be considerably increased. Sheep are now very dear, nevertheless I purpose seeking Ministerial authority to purchase more ewes for this station.

Since taking over the station the capital has been greatly increased by the addition of stock, implements, and improvements, among which are two 10-furrow disc ploughs, one Massey-Harris mower and binder, one hay trolley, a motor

launch, 21 horses, harness, &c., and everything on the station has been put in good working order. The stables have been enlarged, and two tanks are under construction.

Four hundred tons of hay was still on hand on June 30th, well stacked and thatched, and I hope to create a reserve of 800 tons or 1,000 tons on the station to provide for bad seasons which may follow.

One hundred and forty tons of super., costing over £600, were used to put in the present growing crops.

For the year ending June 30th, 1915, Point Pearce Station cost the department £2,100 15s. This was owing to a two years drought. Previous to this it has for many years been self-supporting under the able management of the committee of the Y.P.A. Mission.

The Superintendent's report is appended.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

This was voluntarily handed over to the department by the Aborigines' Friends Association, Incorporated, on January 1st, 1916, with all assets and liabilities, viz., assets, £6,546 1s. 9d. ; liabilities, £999 6s. 2d.

The six months' operations on this station show a loss of £700 0s. 8d. This is also satisfactory considering that there are about 70 full-bloods and 310 half-castes more or less dependent on the station. The audited balance-sheet of this station is also appended.

For the year ended June 30th, 1915, the station, while under the management of the A. F. A., cost the department £3,145, and for the six months ended December 31st, 1915, it cost £2,912 18s.

This station is now being developed into a dairying proposition, and already we have worked it up to 100 milkers daily. I hope to more than double this number in a couple of years, and keep a few hundred pigs as well.

Two artesian bores are now being put down, so that some of the land can be irrigated.

A 90gall. an hour separator and engine have been installed and 150 acres of scrub lands have been cleared for cultivation. Four horses were purchased, and an eight-furrow disc plough added to capital. All fences have been improved and added to, and many improvements made to the buildings. The livestock has been considerably increased by purchase and natural increase.

The wages system has been initiated on this station as far as possible, but until the dairying and piggyery are

developed more fully, we have insufficient employment for the support of the 380 natives, consequently rations have to be supplied to many who are capable of earning their own living. The sooner this can be abolished the better, as the old and obsolete system of supplying rations encourages laziness and thriftlessness, and I think it would pay the Government to completely abolish it and pay wages to all able-bodied married men and compel them to maintain themselves and families, single men being expected to find employment off the station.

The Superintendent's report is appended.

<i>Payments to Revenue—</i>		£	s.	d.
Point Pearce Station, from sales of produce, &c.		5,607	16	6
Point McLeay Station, from sales of produce, &c.		1,282	0	11
Repayment of loans, &c.		17	18	3
Total		£6,907	15	8
<i>The Amounts expended for the Year were—</i>		£	s.	d.
Salaries at head office	476 13 4			
Provisions, rations, clothing, transport, medical expenses, &c., for the whole State	4,234 0 2			
Grants-in-aid to the A.F.A., Point McLeay	1,100 0 0			
Purchase of farm and rent for Point McLeay	1,086 2 6			
			6,896	16 0
<i>Point Pearce Station since taking over—</i>				
Salaries	125 0 0			
Wages for aborigines and white laborers	2,484 13 11			
Liabilities of Y.P.A. Mission paid off	1,827 2 10			
Stores, implements, stock, &c.	4,030 8 4			
			8,467	5 1
<i>Point McLeay Station since taking over—</i>				
Salaries	182 0 0			
Wages for aborigines and white laborers	768 0 5			
Implements, stores, stock, &c.	1,825 15 2			
Liabilities of A.F.A. paid off	999 6 2			
			3,775	1 9
Total expenditure		£19,139	2	10

The only station in the State still not under departmental control is Koonibba, near Denial Bay, which is controlled by the Lutheran (German) Synod. There are about 180 natives at this station. During the year rations were supplied them costing the department £256.

The Synod were approached with a view to handing the station over to the department, but up to the present negotiations have failed. This is regrettable, as all the

